



## GOVT HIKES INTEREST ON POST OFFICE SAVINGS BY UP TO 110 BPS

The government on Friday raised interest rates on most post office savings schemes that do not get income tax benefits

## NO CHANGES FOR PPF, SUKANYA SAMRIDHI

While the rates for PPF and girl child savings scheme Sukanya Samridhi were retained at 7.3% and 7.6%, respectively, that of deposits up to 5% as well as NSC, Senior Citizen Savings Scheme and Kisan Vikas Patra have been raised by up to 1.1 percentage points. The rates on Kisan Vikas Patra have been hiked to 7.2%, a government notification said | P13

## CORE SECTOR GROWTH AT 5.4% IN NOVEMBER

Monthly Income Scheme would earn 40 bps more at 7.1%, while National Savings Certificate has been raised by 20 bps to 7%  
Senior Citizen Savings scheme will earn 40 bps more at 8%  
Meanwhile, production of eight infrastructure sectors increased 5.4% in November against a 3.2% growth in the year-ago period

80%

GROWTH RATE OF EIGHT INFRASTRUCTURE SECTORS DURING APRIL-NOVEMBER PERIOD

# For facelift, target old cases for disposal: CJI

Puts district courts on a pedestal, says people must get rid of the colonial mindset

SHRUTI KANKAR @ New Delhi

CHIEF Justice of India D Y Chandrachud on Friday urged all courts to identify and target disposing of their oldest cases in the next few months so as to change the image of the judiciary.

Speaking at the inauguration of the Andhra Pradesh Judicial Academy, CJI said, "We need to change the image of the judiciary, which is based on the classical movie phrase, *tareekh pe tareekh*." He suggested all courts to take up their oldest

cases for expeditious disposal.

The CJI put district courts on a pedestal, saying people must get rid of the colonial mindset of referring to them as subordinate judiciary in hierarchy and in practice.

Citing data available at the National Judicial Data Grid, the CJI sought to underscore that the reasons for delay in case disposal are not attributable to judges. For ex-



CJI Chandrachud

ample, 63 lakh cases have been considered delayed due to non-availability of counsel. Besides, almost 14 lakh cases have been delayed since some record or document is awaited, which is beyond the control of the court, he pointed out.

To enable court establishments to monitor the progress of case disposal, justice clocks will be established in every court, he added.

Looking inward, he said bail, not jail, is one of the most fundamental rules of the criminal justice system. "Yet in practice the number of undertrials languishing in prisons in India reflects a paradoxical situation, deprivation of liberty, even for a single day is a day too many," the CJI said, adding the provisions of bail must not be meaningless and mechanical.

The CJI also sought to dispel fear in judicial officers in trial courts on how grant of bail will be perceived, saying it is irrational.

## MORE CRIMINAL CASES NOT A HEALTHY TREND: SC JUDGE

Supreme Court judge Justice S Abdul Nazeer said that registration of more criminal cases than civil cases is not a healthy trend for the society. That would mean more people are taking law into their own hands. Accident cases may have been included in the list of criminal cases, yet the surging number of criminal cases is a cause for concern, he said. He was speaking after laying the foundation stone for the construction of a new annex court complex in Udipi on Friday. Justice Nazeer said that 95 per cent of the cases registered by the police end up in acquittal and this means wrong charge-sheets are being filed before the courts.

## SIMPELE THE BEST



## Drugs worth ₹6.31 cr for NY parties seized in Bengaluru

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

CENTRAL Crime Branch sleuths have arrested eight persons, including two foreign nationals, and seized narcotic substances worth Rs 6.31 crore in three separate operations. According to the police, the accused were planning to sell the drugs at New Year parties.

Police said they had kept a vigil on drug peddlers for over a month as they were anticipating that drugs would be supplied at New Year parties. In

Kothanur police station limits, the police arrested six persons who are residents of Bengaluru and Hyderabad. They had procured drugs from Nigerian nationals staying in Goa, Delhi, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad and Bengaluru. The accused had rented a house in Kothanur to store the procured drugs and sell them at exorbitant prices during New Year celebrations.

In another raid, police have seized 2.3 kg of MDMA, 250 ecstasy pills, 4kg of hashish oil, 440g of charas and 7.1 kg of ganja, which is estimated to be worth Rs 6 crore. In another operation in Electronics City, the police arrested an Ivory Coast national and seized 250g of MDMA worth Rs 25 lakh. A citizen of Costa Rica was also arrested in Banaswadi and cocaine and ecstasy pills worth Rs 6 lakh were seized.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi carries the mortal remains of his mother Hiraben Modi during her funeral procession in Gandhinagar on Friday | P11

## Modi's centenarian mother passes away

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @ Ahmedabad

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi's mother Hiraben Modi passed away at U N Mehta Heart Hospital in Ahmedabad early on Friday. The end came at 3.30 am, the hospital said in its medical bulletin. She was 100.

Hiraben is survived by her five sons — PM Modi and his brothers Somabhai, Amrutbhai, Prahladbhai, and Pankajbhai — and daughter Vasantiben.

Her last rites were performed at a crematorium in Gandhinagar at 9.30 am in the presence of the prime minister, his brothers and other family members. Earlier in the day, the PM reached the residence of his brother Pankaj Modi at Raysan village on the outskirts of Gandhinagar, where Hiraben's mortal remains were kept. He

offered floral tributes to his mother there and bowed down at her feet. Later, Modi and his brothers shouldered her mortal remains for some distance before placing them in a van.

### Three-day mourning

Prime Minister Modi's birth place Vadnagar will observe a three-day mourning with all major markets in the city to remain closed to condole Hiraben's death

always remember — *kam karo buddhi thi, jivan jivo suddhi thi* (work with intelligence, and live life with purity)."

Modi had last visited the Mehta hospital to inquire about his mother on Wednesday after learning about her deteriorating health condition.

## Pant injured after Merc rams divider

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

DASHING wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant was injured in a car accident in the early hours of Friday near Roorkee after he dozed off at the wheel and crashed into a highway divider. Pant was on his way to Roorkee from Delhi in his Mercedes Benz to surprise his mother on the New Year's eve when the accident occurred.

Eyewitnesses said Pant broke the car window and jumped out as it was catching fire. In the process, his skin peeled off at a few places. Passersby called the police and the ambulance service. After first aid in Roorkee, he was admitted to the Max Hospital in Dehradun.

Pant suffered injuries on his legs, head and back, but is stable. He does not seem to have bone injuries but has a ligament tear on his right knee, which is being further as-



Rishabh Pant (left) receives treatment at a hospital in Roorkee after his car (above) met with an accident, on Friday | P11

health and wished him speedy recovery.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India said Pant will receive the best possible medical care and get all support.

"The BCCI is in constant touch with Rishabh's family while the medical team is in close contact with the doctors cur-

rently treating Rishabh," BCCI secretary Jay Shah said.

Speaking to this newspaper, Haridwar Senior Superintendent of Police Ajay Singh said, "At 5.22 am, the operator of a Haryana Roadways bus called the police and ambulance about the accident." According to police sources, two employees of a sugar mill, who were returning home from night duty, were among the first responders. "As soon as we got the information, we rushed to the spot and identified cricketer Pant," said Sonu Kumar, who was part of the ambulance team.

All Pant could remember after jumping out was his mother's mobile number, which he asked the first responders to call. According to Sonu, "Pant said since he could rarely indulge in his passion for driving because of his busy cricketing schedule, he chose to drive home from Delhi."

## Shah sounds poll bugle from Mandya, tears into Oppn

B K LAKSHMIKANTHA @ Mandya

UNION Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday sounded the bugle for the 2023 Assembly polls in Karnataka by urging the people of the state to vote for the BJP for the development of the state.

Addressing a gathering during the BJP's Jana Sankalpa Yatra at Mandya, a Vokkaliga bastion, Shah tore into the Congress and JDS and termed them dynastic parties. He accused them of looting the state resources for many years and serving as automated teller machines (ATMs) for their party leadership.

"While the Congress government was an ATM for its party high command, JDS was an ATM for a family. As both parties were corrupt, there has been no development in the state. The double-engine BJP government (at state and Centre), which believes in nationalism and unity, has been devel-

oping the state in a big way," he said.

Accusing the two parties of being communal and sheltering criminals, Shah alleged that the Congress neglected and cheated the Dalit and Adivasi communities for centuries.

"BJP made Ram Nath Kovind, a Dalit, and Droupadi Murmu, an Adivasi, Presidents of India. It is the BJP which is working for the welfare of these two communities in the country," he said.

Referring to the recent ban on Popular Front of India (PFI), Shah said that the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government had withdrawn 56 cases against 1,700 PFI cadres, but it was PM Modi who banned the PFI and sent its leaders to jail. The government also scrapped Article 370, which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir, to end terrorism in the state, he added.

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## Combat role for CRPF women with Valley ultras

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

IN a first, the CRPF will deploy women personnel trained in handling of automatic weapons, explosives and drones on operational duties in the militancy-hit Kashmir. The deployment will take place in March and it will be the first induction of the women force of any security agencies for direct combat with militants in the Valley.

CRPF inspector general (Srinagar sector) Charu Sinha told *TNIE* that the CRPF is planning to deploy female personnel during the cordon and search operation as it has been observed that women feel uncomfortable during search operations by male-dominated security forces. "For the comfort of women folk, we are going to deploy women personnel during the search operation."

At present, women CRPF personnel are deployed for frisking women at the Srinagar airport, civil secretariat and other



Representative picture | ANI

government installations.

"In the next two to three months, we intend to deploy women personnel in counter militancy operations in the Valley as well," Sinha said.

The women personnel would be given one-and-a-half month training in the Valley in handling of sophisticated weapons, explosives and use of drones.

"After undergoing additional training, the women CRPF personnel will be deployed in counter-militancy operations to fight militants like their male counterparts. The women personnel will be doing everything that a male constable does," Sinha said.

## CORE SECTOR GROWS BY 5.4% IN NOVEMBER

This was aided by a better show by coal, fertiliser, steel, cement and electricity segments, according to official data on Friday.

DONNA EVA @ Bengaluru

A new study has thrown light into many interesting aspects of butterflies' adaptation and evolution processes. Researchers from the National Centre of Biological Sciences (NCBS) have found that butterflies that have evolved to make use of mimicry evolve faster than the species that don't make use of mimicry.

The study was undertaken by three researchers from NCBS, Dipendra Nath Basu, Vaishali Bhaumik and advisor

Prof Krushnamegh Kunte, who studied several species of butterflies and their imitative traits in the Western Ghats in Karnataka.

The findings were categorised into three — model species (those that are toxic to predators), Batesian mimicry species (those that evolved traits of unpalatable species to avoid predators) and non-mimetic species (those that are closely related to Batesian mimics but did not evolve mimicry trait).

Batesian mimics adapt to avoiding predators by evolving



The Common Rose (Pachliopta aristolochiae) is a bright, warningly patterned toxic butterfly that most predators learn to avoid eating | KRUSHNAMEGH KUNTE

similar wing colour patterns and flight behaviours. Interestingly, they found that the mim-

icking species of butterfly have evolved faster than the non-mimetic species, but the model species evolved at an even faster rate.

Analyses revealed that not only had colour patterns evolved at a much faster rate, but that members of mimetic communities had evolved at a faster rate than their closer relatives. Butterflies exhibit a wide range of colours and colour patterns, suggesting that the genetic architecture underlying wing patterns and colour pigments are relatively malle-

able and susceptible to change, the researchers said.

The researchers are now planning to study species of butterflies in older biological communities in North East India and South East Asia to see if the rate of evolution is similar in these communities as compared to the young communities they studied in the Western Ghats.

"The hope is that this research will reveal how species diversified and bio-diversity flourished in the Indian tropic," they said.